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Senate Approves Lincoln-led Disaster Package

As Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, delivering assistance to Arkansas farmers who have been affected by weather-related disasters has been my top priority.

I am proud to announce that on Wednesday [the U.S. Senate passed my \\$1.5 billion agriculture disaster relief package](#) and Arkansas farmers are now one step closer to receiving the relief they desperately need. [Watch my YouTube video on the ag disaster package.](#)

Our farmers provide the safest, most affordable, most abundant food supply in the world. We cannot afford to see them forced out of business because of conditions beyond their control. Disaster legislation is critical to many Arkansas farmers; without this assistance many may not have adequate financing to plant this spring.

While previous disaster bills have taken more than three years to pass the Senate, this bipartisan legislation was passed in just three months.

Nothing is more important right now than saving jobs and boosting Arkansas's economy – this bill does just that. It will help maintain the 270,000 Arkansas jobs that agriculture provides and ensure that agriculture can continue to contribute more than \$9 billion each year to the state's economy.

Specifically, the bill will provide an estimated \$1 billion in supplemental payments to producers who suffered crop losses, \$300 million to assist specialty crop producers, \$75 million in emergency loans to poultry producers, \$50 million in assistance for livestock producers, \$25 million in aquaculture assistance and \$42 million to aid first handlers of cottonseed.

The bill will now be sent over to the House of Representatives as part of the larger tax-extendors package. I will continue to work closely with my colleagues in the House to ensure that Arkansas producers receive this relief in a timely manner.

As always, please feel free to [contact me](#). I look forward to hearing from you.

With Arkansas Pride,

Senator Lincoln's



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